WE CLAIM:

1. A marshmallow-toasting utensil, comprising:

a handle having a user grippable region adapted to be grasped in a user's hand as the utensil is supported in the user's hand; and

a wire assembly having a pair of elastically deformable elongate wire segments with spaced-apart end regions, wherein the wire assembly is coupled to the handle and adapted to be selectively positioned relative to the handle within a range of positions that include an extended configuration and a stowed configuration, wherein in the extended configuration the wire segments extend from the handle with the end regions distal the handle and biased to a spaced-apart configuration relative to each other, wherein in the stowed configuration, the end regions of the wire segments are retained at least proximate the handle, and futher wherein the wire assembly is adapted to be selectively positioned between the stowed and the extended configurations without detachment of the wire assembly from the handle.

2. The utensil of claim 1, wherein the handle includes an internal compartment with an opening through which the wire segments are selectively extended as the wire assembly is configured from the stowed configuration to the extended configuration, wherein in the stowed configuration, the wire assembly is at least substantially housed within the compartment.

3. The utensil of claim 2, wherein in the stowed configuration, the wire assembly is completely housed within the compartment.

4. The utensil of claim 2, wherein the internal compartment defines a track that defines the path of the wire segments as the wire segments are moved from the stowed configuration.

5. The utensil of claim 2, wherein the wire assembly includes a linkage region that couples the wire segments together distal the end regions.

6. The utensil of claim 5, wherein the utensil includes a retainer that is adapted to selectively engage the linkage region and prevent complete removal of the wire assembly from the compartment when the wire assembly is extended to the extended configuration.

7. The utensil of claim 5, wherein the utensil includes an actuator that is selectively manipulated by a user relative to an elongate opening in the handle to selectively position the wire assembly between the stowed configuration and an actuated configuration, in which the end regions of the wire assembly are urged out of the compartment to a position in which the end regions may be grasped by a user to further withdraw the wire segments from the compartment to the extended configuration.

8. The utensil of claim 7, wherein the linkage region of the wire assembly forms at least a portion of the actuator.

9. The utensil of claim 7, wherein the actuator includes a slidable member with an engagement surface that is adapted to selectively engage the wire assembly to urge the wire assembly to the actuated configuration.

10. The utensil of claim 9, wherein the compartment defines a track within which the slidable member travels.

11. The utensil of claim 1, wherein the wire assembly is pivotally coupled to the handle and adapted to be selectively pivoted between the stowed configuration and the extended configuration.

12. The utensil of claim 11, wherein the utensil further includes a pivot member that is adapted to enable pivotal movement of the wire assembly relative to the handle.

13. The utensil of claim 12, wherein the wire assembly forms at least a portion of the pivot member.

14. The utensil of claim 12, wherein the wire assembly is adapted to pivot with the pivot member.

15. The utensil of claim 12, wherein the wire assembly is adapted to pivot about the pivot member.

16. The utensil of claim 11, wherein the handle includes at least one recess in which the wire segments are received when the wire assembly is in the stowed configuration.

17. The utensil of claim 16, wherein the handle includes a plurality of recesses into which the wire segments are respectively received when the wire assembly is in the stowed configuration.

18. The utensil of claim 16, wherein the handle includes at least one recess with a projecting flange under which at least one of the wire segments extends when the wire assembly is in the stowed configuration.

19. The utensil of claim 18, wherein the wire assembly is biased to the extended configuration.

20. A method for toasting a marshmallow, comprising:

providing a utensil having a handle with a user-grippable region and a wire assembly that includes a plurality of elongate wire segments with spaced-apart end regions and which is in a stowed configuration in which the end regions of the wire segments are retained proximate the handle;

configuring the wire assembly to an extended configuration in which the wire segments extend away from the handle with the end regions positioned distal the handle;

deforming elastically at least the end regions of the plurality of wire segments to draw the end regions toward each other to an elastically deformed position;

impaling a marshmallow on the end regions, wherein the marshmallow retains the end regions at least substantially in the elastically deformed position; and

positioning the marshmallow at least proximate a heat source to heat the marshmallow, wherein the end regions spread away from each other as the marshmallow is heated.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the configuring includes pivoting the wire assembly relative to the handle.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the configuring includes pivoting the wire assembly from within a recess in the handle.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the configuring includes sliding the wire assembly from within the handle to the extended configuration.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the configuring includes urging an actuator to displace the wire assembly to an initially actuated configuration in which the end regions at least partially project from the handle and thereafter grasping the end regions of the wire assembly to further withdraw the wire segments from the handle to the extended configuration.